



# NEWS RELEASE

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*Find great presents and help State Parks*

## Discover Unique Holiday Gifts In a California State Park

Old time toys, California Poppy china, commemorative medallions, fine Russian porcelain, mission-era handicrafts and everything butterflies are just some of the unique gifts shoppers can find this holiday season and year-round when visiting your nearest California State Park or on line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

Here's more of what you can find:

The **Año Nuevo State Reserve** bookstore, 27 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Highway 1, features a large hand-made elephant seal puppet with teeth for \$45 plus shipping and tax. The store also has a small hand-made elephant seal puppet for \$37 plus shipping and tax. For more information, contact Fay Levinson, the bookstore manager, at (650) 879-2041.

**Calaveras Big Trees State Park**, four miles northeast of Arnold on Highway 4, has a number of gift ideas, such as: "The Enduring Giants, the Story of Calaveras Big Trees," a book written by Joseph H. Engbeck Jr. (\$11.75); beautiful prints of oil paintings depicting the four seasons at Calaveras Big Trees State Park - 8 x 10 prints (\$14) and boxed note cards (\$12); Giant Sequoia seedlings (\$8) and Giant Sequoia and Pacific Dogwood seed kits (\$7); and historic color images of Calaveras Big Trees (8 x 10 prints - \$14.50 each). The park visitor center has a wide range of bear gifts, including bear books, socks, puppets, patches, tote bags, CDs and tapes. For more information about holiday gifts, call (209) 795-3840 or e-mail: [cbtvc@goldrush.com](mailto:cbtvc@goldrush.com).

The **California State Railroad Museum Store** in Old Sacramento features California Poppy china produced exclusively for the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Whether purchased as a piece of railroad history, or because it beautifully portrays the state flower, this exclusive dinnerware is an important fund raiser for the Foundation. For decades, diners aboard Santa Fe passenger trains got their first taste of California on the railway's famed California Poppy china. Introduced in 1892 for its famed Chicago-Los Angeles "California Limited" passenger trains, this timeless pattern was used until 1971. Long sought-after by collectors, this historic line is now available in museum-quality reproductions. This bright floral pattern is suitable for household use

and is sure to appeal to Californians, fans of the Golden State, and followers of the golden age of railroading. The reproduction dinnerware is American made, microwavable and dish-washer safe. The 11 pieces are available separately or in sets from the California State Railroad Museum Store and through the Museum's website: [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org). The museum phone number is (800) 417-7245.

**Donner Memorial State Park**, outside of Truckee off Highway 80 at 12593 Donner Pass Road, offers many items unique to the park, including: camp mug (\$9.95); solid silver commemorative medallion (\$30); souvenir medallion (\$3.50); hooded sweatshirt (\$26.50); crew neck sweatshirt (\$19.50); and ball cap (\$14) all with the emblem "Donner Memorial State Park." Many other Donner-related gift items and books are available at the bookstore in the Emigrant Trail Museum or by calling (530) 582-7892.

**El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park**, 123 East Canon Perdido in Santa Barbara, has a great selection of books on the history of California in the Spanish Colonial period and many books on the Chumash Indians, including the new release "The Chumash and the Presidio of Santa Barbara: Evolution of a Relationship, 1782 – 1823" by Marie Christine Duggan, Ph.D., priced at \$10 in paperback. The shop features the unique pine needle basketry of the Tarahumara as well as Spanish fans and castenettes. For more information call (805) 965-0093 or contact [joan@sbthp.org](mailto:joan@sbthp.org).

**Empire Mine State Historic Park**, in Grass Valley, has a gift shop with a unique and extensive selection of mineral samples from around the world. The shop also has a nice selection of gold in quartz samples from various California mines, gold and mineral-oriented jewelry, and a book selection that covers the park and the local area. The sales phone number is (530) 268-8578.

**Fort Ross State Historic Park**, 12 miles north of Jenner on Highway 1, has a visitor center with many holiday gift ideas for all tastes and all ages. The bookstore is full of treasures and trinkets from Russia and California and carries a wide selection of books and educational material geared toward cultural and natural resources education. There are many publications from California State Parks and local authors as well as cookbooks and trail guides. The center has Russian stacking dolls, fine Russian porcelain, Russian music sung in English and Russian, and scarves. There are also T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Fort Ross logo. More information can be found on the web site at [www.mcn.org/1/rrparks/fortross](http://www.mcn.org/1/rrparks/fortross).

**Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**, five miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 9 in Felton, has the park Nature Store that features many wonderful nature themed gifts, including jewelry, puzzles, life-like electronic butterflies, original paintings, door bells and knockers, forest critter finger puppets, mini faux redwood trees, handmade leather goods, nature-themed clothing, plush stuffed bears honoring the "California Grizzly," banana slug magnets, walking sticks, children's books and much more. For more information, call (831) 335-0782 or go on-line to [www.mountainparks.org](http://www.mountainparks.org)

**La Purisima State Historic Park**, three miles northeast of Lompoc, has a gift shop with many craft items created by park docents. The mission-era handicrafts are produced during educational programs held at the park throughout the year. Including hand made soap, candles,

ceramic items, woven rope and fabric baskets, forged nails, and hand woven wool miniature demonstration blankets. All these items and much more are for sale in our Gift Shop between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily, or by phone at (805) 736-3605 or by e-mail at [giftshop@impulse.net](mailto:giftshop@impulse.net).

**Monterey State Historic Park** in downtown Monterey has a number of places to find great gift ideas: The **Cooper Museum Store**, located in the Cooper Molera Adobe, 525 Polk Street, in Monterey State Historic Park, features gift and educational items "you can't find any place else," such as a Whimmy Diddle, a hacky sack, and a Game of Graces. The store also features old-time toys from American Folk Toys and Mountain Craft Shop in West Virginia; nostalgic gift items from Authentic Models, such as Victorian writing sets with glass pens, and models for children and the young at heart; as well as Papel Picado (Mexican cut paper), molinillos (chocolate stirrers), tin tree ornaments, and retablos (Nativity scenes). The store is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on December 9 and 11 during "Christmas in the Adobes." For more information, call (831) 649-7111.

The Historic Garden League operates two shops in Monterey State Historic Park, 210 Olivier at the foot of Scott Street: The **Joseph Boston Store**, the first general mercantile store in California, has gifts and decorations from the 1800s. **Picket Fence** has garden-related items for the home and Christmas tree. The stores are open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All profits go to the maintenance of historic gardens in Monterey area. For more information, call (831) 649-3364.

The **Morro Bay State Park** Museum of Natural History, in the city of Morro Bay, recently purchased a number of environmentally-friendly products. Gifts include: recycled glass sun catchers/ornaments with wildlife, plants and more images blown into 3D with a label containing logo and tagline (\$8-\$10); brushkins animal ornaments (\$7); recycled bike tire frames (\$17-\$25); recycled denim pencils with logo (\$1); recycled denim mugs with name and tagline on both sides (\$6); and recycled newspaper memo note holder with logo (\$6). As a promotion, new members of the Central Coast Natural History Association receive a canvas tote bag. The bags are also for sale in the nature stores for \$8.95. For more information call (805) 772-2694.

**Natural Bridges State Beach**, on the coast at the north end of Santa Cruz, has everything about butterflies. The park is an overwintering site for Monarch butterflies. The parks store stocks a terrific selection of butterfly books, guides, teacher resources, story and coloring books, butterfly gardening books (and seeds to go with them.) Educational toys include puppets, butterfly bingo and metamorphosis puzzles. Butterflies to wear are available for the whole family including t-shirts, socks, baby clothes, umbrellas, jewelry and silk scarves from an exclusive Mexico City fashion designer. For more information call the park at (831) 423-4609.

**Point Sur State Historic Park** (Point Sur Light Station), 19 miles south of Monterey off Highway 1, features many unique items in the park gift shop, including: a Christmas ornament in 3D brass (\$16.75); a fleece blanket with machine-embroidered design (\$45.50); a wood etched key chain (\$2.50); decorative pins (of the lighthouse, barn and blacksmith/carpenter shop \$6.50); "I saw the Light" pen (\$2); cap with lighthouse design (\$20); fleece vest \$35; long and short sleeved shirts (\$18 to \$35); a light house needlepoint kit (\$15); posters (\$10); magnets (\$1 and \$3); and California poppy, New Zealand spinach and lupine seeds collected by a docent (\$3);

white thermal-reactive blue and white mugs (\$7 and \$8); and much more. For further information, e-mail [duskat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duskat@sbcglobal.net) or [marsh@redshift.com](mailto:marsh@redshift.com)

The Courthouse Museum at **Shasta State Historic Park**, six miles west of Redding on Highway 299, sells note cards featuring early California paintings. They can be purchased individually at \$1, or a set of six for \$5. Contact the park at (530) 243-8194 or [shastashp@snowcrest.net](mailto:shastashp@snowcrest.net) for ordering.

Visit California State Parks on line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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